

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 5, and 7-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kamimura (JP 06-281947). In response, Applicant amended independent claims 1 and 2 to include the features of claim 7 and 10, and respectfully traverse the rejection.

Since the features of claim 10 are added to the claims, the rejection is believed by Applicant to be overcome.

In addition, Applicant traverses the rejection as it applies to the amended claims because Kamimura fails to disclose (or suggest) the features of claim 7 now revised and included in independent claims 1 and 2, wherein the alignment direction controlling section or sections show an effect to control the alignment directions caused by the polymerized liquid crystal composition obtained by the selective irradiation of active energy rays are installed on either one of the surfaces which contact the liquid crystal layer (liquid crystal contacting surfaces), or each independently on both of the surfaces.

Kamimura is directed a liquid crystal panel and its production. The liquid crystal panel 11 is formed from liquid crystal cells 13 segmented by wall surfaces 12 that are smaller than one pixel. Clearly, the wall surfaces 12 shown in FIG. 1 of Kamimura are attached to both substrates and completely seal the space between the wall surfaces. Accordingly, Kamimura fails to disclose or suggest an alignment direction controlling section or sections as now recited in amended independent claims 1 and 2 that is not attached to both surfaces.

In contrast, the present invention has an alignment direction controlling section or sections installed on either one of the surfaces which contact the liquid crystal layer (liquid crystal contacting surfaces), or each independently on both of the surfaces. Support for this amendment can be found in FIGs. 12A-17B and the related description in Applicant's Specification. As now amended, claims 1 and 2 clearing indicate that the alignment direction controlling section or sections are not attached to both liquid crystal contacting layers. This difference is further exemplified by the fact that the concentration of the monomers is 50 wt.% in Kamimura (see Example 2 of Kamimura), whereas in the present invention the concentration of the monomers is less than 1 wt.% (see Example 3 of the present Application). Since Kamimura fails to disclose or suggest the features discussed above, withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection of claims 1-2, 5, and 8 is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-4, 6, and 9-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamimura in view of one or more of Inoue et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0095229A1), Takeda et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,661,488), Kubo et al. (U.S. Publication no. 2001/0055082A1), and Park et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0147032A1). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for the reasons recited above with respect to the rejection of independent claims 1 and 2.

With respect to cancelled claim 10, which is now incorporated into independent claims 1 and 2, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Kamimura nor Kubo disclose or suggest the feature of improving the transmission of regions with low transmissions by compensating for the low transmission so that transmission is improved as a whole. As

discussed in Applicant's Specification on page 25, lines 4-7 transmittance can be improved as a whole by utilizing 1/4 wavelength plates. In particular, it is possible to improve the transmittance of areas having a low transmittance such as those shown in the dark portions in FIG. 4B of the present Application. Since neither Kamimura nor Kubo teaches improving the transmittance in areas having a low transmittance, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent claims 1 and 2 now distinguish over the cited prior art. For this reason, withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections is respectfully requested.

For all of the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance, which is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney if an interview would expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
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